

IN THE CLAIMS

1-42. (cancelled)

43. (currently amended) A network system, comprising

a first information processing apparatus having a user interface for receiving input from a user and for providing output to the user, ~~the first information processing apparatus being capable of being removably loaded with a portable recording medium, the recording medium having a program stored thereon; and~~

a second information processing apparatus including a database, said second information processing apparatus capable of being connected to the first information processing apparatus via a network,

wherein the second information processing apparatus is operable to receive first identification information and second identification information over the network from the first information processing apparatus, the first identification information identifying at least one of the first information processing apparatus or a user of the first information processing apparatus, the second identification information identifying a program stored on a recording medium coupled to the first information processing apparatus, the second information processing apparatus being operable—and to verify whether the received first and second identification information matches based on data stored in the database, such that when at least one of the first or second the identification information matches the data stored in the database is verified, the second information processing apparatus is operable to request input of a password via the first information processing apparatus and, in response to determining that the password is valid, to permit the first information processing apparatus to execute the program.

44. (currently amended) A network system as claimed in claim 43, wherein the first identification information includes a user ID identifying the user.

45. (currently amended) A network system as claimed in claim 43, wherein the first identification information includes a device ID identifying the first information processing apparatus.

46. (original) A network system as claimed in claim 45, wherein the device ID is unique to the first information processing apparatus.

47. (currently amended) A method of remotely authorizing execution of a program stored on a ~~portable~~-recording medium, comprising:

~~loading a removable portable recording medium into a first information processing apparatus, the recording medium having a program stored thereon; and~~

receiving first identification information and second identification information at a second information processing apparatus from ~~the a~~ first information processing apparatus via a network, the first identification information identifying at least one of the first information processing apparatus or a user of the first information processing apparatus, the second identification information identifying a program stored on a recording medium coupled to the first information processing apparatus;

verifying whether the first and second the-identification information match ~~based on~~-data stored in a database at the second information processing apparatus;

when at least one of the first or second identification information matches the data stored in the database~~is verified~~, requesting, via the second information processing apparatus, a password to be input at the first information processing apparatus; and

when the password is determined to be valid, permitting the first information processing apparatus to execute the program.

48. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 47, wherein the first identification information includes a user ID identifying the user.

49. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 47, wherein the first identification information includes a device ID identifying the first information processing apparatus.

50. (original) A method as claimed in claim 49, wherein the device ID is unique to the first information processing apparatus.

51. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium having instructions stored thereon, the instructions being executable by a computer to perform a method of remotely permitting execution of a program stored on a recording medium, the method comprising:

~~loading a removable portable recording medium into a first information processing apparatus, the recording medium having a program stored thereon; and~~

receiving first identification information and second identification information at a second information processing apparatus from ~~the a~~ first information processing apparatus via a network, the first identification information identifying at least one of the first information processing apparatus or a user of the first information processing apparatus, the second identification information identifying a program stored on a recording medium coupled to the first information processing apparatus;

verifying whether the first and second ~~the~~ identification information match based on data stored in a database at the second information processing apparatus;

when at least one of the first or second identification information matches the data stored in the database ~~is verified,~~

requesting, via the second information processing apparatus, a password to be input at the first information processing apparatus; and

when the password is determined to be valid, permitting the first information processing apparatus to execute the program.

52. (currently amended) A second information processing apparatus capable of being connected through a network to a first information processing apparatus, the second information processing apparatus comprising a database and being operable to receive first identification information and second identification information over the network from the first information processing apparatus, the first identification information identifying at least one of the first information processing apparatus or a user of the first information processing apparatus, the second identification information identifying a program stored on a recording medium coupled to the first information processing apparatus, and to—verify whether the received first and second identification information match based on data stored in the database, such that when at least one of the first or second~~the~~ identification information matches the data stored in the database is verified, the second information processing apparatus is operable to request input of a password via the first information processing apparatus and, in response to determining that the password is valid, ~~to permit the first information processing apparatus to execute a—the program stored on a portable recording medium loaded in the first information processing apparatus.~~